

AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Town of Hempstead's special ceremony honoring African American World War II veterans for their dedicated commitment and service to the country.

Throughout our nation's history, our armed forces have gone off to battle and served bravely and effectively in every situation we have asked. As of late, we have done much to recognize the accomplishments of the generation that fought the Second World War, and rightly so. But we should not forget the special role that African Americans played in that conflict. The road to preserving democracy was paved by a legacy of racism. For this reason, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 1.2 million African-Americans who served in World War II, and in many cases died for their country.

We cannot expect future generations to understand fully what those who came before saw, experienced and felt in battle, but we can make sure that our children know enough to say, "Thank you." Fighting against tyranny and participating in the liberation of Europe, they risked their lives to defend freedom, even though they did not enjoy those same freedoms at home. In the process, they forever changed the face of America's armed forces and society.

We owe them a debt of gratitude. As a precursor to the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's they resisted America's centuries old hypocrisy about race. If it was not for their belief in the future, surely we would not have had President Truman's Executive Order desegregating the armed forces. If it was not for sacrifices, surely there would not have been the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. And surely, if it was not for their faith, I fear we would not have the 1965 Voting Rights Act ensuring the right of everyone to participate in our democracy. For all of this, we thank them. With bravery and determination they led a struggle for racial equality that doomed segregation and changed America forever.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF
THE BASKETBALL TEAM OF
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the outstanding basketball season of my alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University. Their season ended last night with a near miss in the quarter final round of the NCAA Division 2 Tournament in California. Earlier this month, our team won the Central Intercolle-

giate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament in Raleigh, NC, and one week later, won the South Atlantic Regional Championship which gave them a shot at the NCAA Division 2 crown.

Johnson C. Smith University is a small liberal arts school in Charlotte, NC. It was founded in 1867 with support from the Presbyterian Church. This season marks the best basketball record in the school's history, and its first CIAA championship. I join other proud Smith alumni, proud North Carolinians, and sports enthusiasts everywhere to commend the team and the school for a job well done.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO FORMER SEN-
ATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy in recognition of his exemplary service and lifelong dedication to the nation and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy has a distinguished record of public service to the American people. As a member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, and as a private citizen, Senator McCarthy made lasting contributions to the nation's welfare.

During his ten years of service in the House of Representatives, Eugene McCarthy dedicated himself to improving the lives of his fellow Americans by forming the Democratic Study Group, devoted to advancing the interests of working Americans. Eugene McCarthy also served honorably as a United States Senator while he fought to advance the causes of peace and democracy in the United States and abroad.

Through his efforts to shape legislation, Eugene McCarthy has exemplified the highest standards of public service. His dedication to the principles of honesty and fairness are evident in his efforts to pass civil rights legislation, increase the minimum wage, shape a just tax policy, reform government institutions, and promote a peaceful foreign policy.

Senator McCarthy waged a principled campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. His stand against the Vietnam War inspired young people to believe they could make a difference in public life.

Since leaving the United States Senate, Eugene McCarthy has dedicated himself to sharing his ideas and knowledge by writing books and poetry and by speaking to audiences throughout the United States and around the world. Eugene McCarthy epitomizes the most deeply held and cherished values of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy is an esteemed fellow Minnesotan and friend. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy for his unique contributions to our nation.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my Colleagues and the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues this evening in celebrating the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence.

March 25, 2001 marks the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottomans. After almost 400 years of slavery under the oppressive Ottoman Empire—during which time the Greek people did not enjoy any civil rights, including the right to an education or to worship in their religion—the people of Greece took up arms and risked their lives to successfully fight for their freedom. This date also marks the creation of modern Greece.

That is why commemorating Greek Independence Day is so important and why I am proud to join our Greek brothers and sisters in celebrating this great milestone. As someone who fled communism, I am fully aware of how precious our freedom is and what a joyous occasion this is to the Greek-American community and to freedom lovers everywhere.

The Greek influence is inherent in our own democratic form of government. As Thomas Jefferson has stated, ". . . to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves [American colonists] out of Gothic darkness." This quote illustrates how much Greek democratic ideals helped forge our own government, including the right of self-governance, independence, and freedom.

But we need not only look behind us to appreciate the gifts Greece has given us. In recent history, Greece has also been a great friend of the United States. For example, according to research conducted by the The National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in this century.

Today, in the United States, Greek-Americans are one of the most successful nationalities. According to data obtained by the U.S. Census, children of the first Greeks who became United States citizens ranked first in median educational attainment among the American ethnic nationalities. Greeks and Greek-Americans in this country have made many invaluable contributions to society in the areas of medicine, fine arts, sports, and education. It is only fitting that we also recognize these individuals who are the product of an independent Greek society.

I am proud to know many Greek and Greek-American individuals and am honored to celebrate Greek Independence Day. I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such a special celebration.